

Green TEAM

quarterly newsletter



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WINTER 2019

winter stormwater



Springtime showers are known to send water sweeping across yards and roadways, carrying pollution and high volumes of water into nearby waterways. But what about during the winter when it snows?

Snowmelt is the same, it's stormwater too!

Just like rain, snowmelt has the potential to impair our water resources. By following these winter stormwater pollution prevent tips you can help reduce its impact!



Winter can create some unique stormwater problems. When temperatures begin to drop the ground is often frozen at the surface, preventing snowmelt from infiltrating into the soil. This means that even a small amount of snow can cause big problems!

- Pile snow in a location where it will have the most opportunity to infiltrate, such as a grassy area or low spot in your yard
- Clear the areas around your downspouts to prevent ponding along your foundation
- Use eco-friendly ice melt, such as an acetate-based deicer
- Do **not** pile snow over storm drains
- Consider postponing outdoor construction projects, establishing vegetative cover is more difficult in the winter!



see stormwater pollution? click [HERE](#) to report!

tree seedlings



Winter is a wonderful time of the year, especially because it is the perfect time to plant a tree!

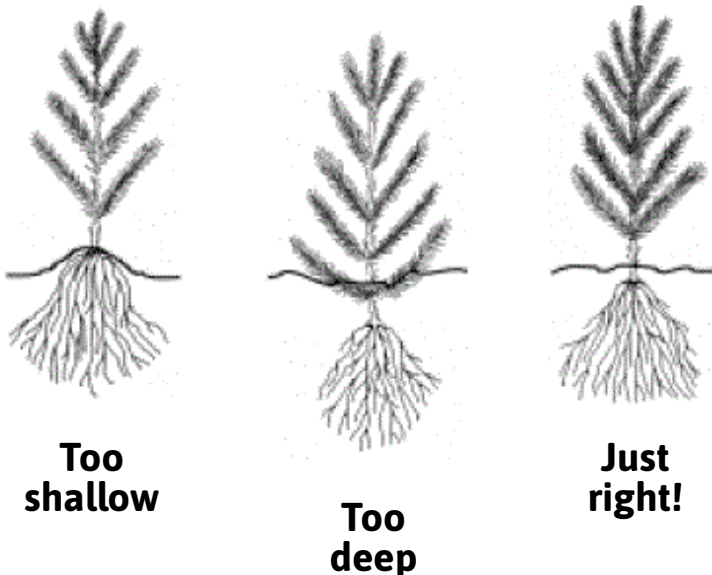
In the southeast, mid-December through mid-March are ideal months to plant bareroot tree seedlings. Planting at the right time is the best way to ensure your tiny tree has the right start in life. This way, the roots will have enough time to settle into their new environment and prepare to supply water to new buds and foliage when warmer temperatures arrive.



The next important step is ensuring the seedlings are stored and planted properly. If you cannot plant immediately they will need to be protected and kept in a cool room where temperature and moisture are regulated. Keep the roots moist, but not soaking; excess water can harm the roots if left for too long!

Planting depth can make the difference between a tree that thrives and one that fails. The proper depth is where the roots are near the surface topped with a layer of soil. Remember to dig the hole large enough to fit the entire root system! If you plant too deep, the roots may not get enough oxygen. Too shallow, the roots may dry out. See below for a depiction on proper planting depth.

How to plant a seedling



It's best to water deeply every 7 to 10 days and let the ground dry out before the next watering. Remember to conduct a 'survival check' at the end of the first growing season. Watch for signs of poor health such as yellowing, wilting leaves or holes in the bark.





This past month we had another great stream cleanup event at Dry Branch Wetland. **Keep Williamson Beautiful** and **City of Franklin Stormwater Management** organized a very successful litter pickup and invasive removal along Dry Branch and its adjoining constructed wetland. Volunteers worked together to removed **660 lbs of trash!**

Great job, volunteers!



Do you know a group of individuals interested in projects that improves the water quality of our streams and rivers? **Adopt a stream!** We are looking for businesses, civic groups, churches, schools, scouts, or any other group to adopt stream segments in Franklin. This Adopt-A-Stream program is organized by **Cumberland River Compact** with the goal to engage volunteers in watershed stewardship work. Since starting this program, adopters have engaged hundreds of volunteers, and have removed thousands of pounds of trash, planting hundreds of trees, and educating the larger community about the importance of this work and the health of our waterways.

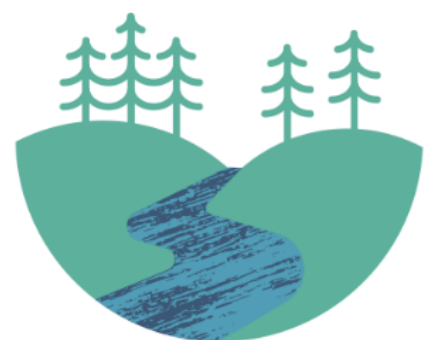


CUMBERLAND RIVER COMPACT

Interested? Contact Cumberland River Compact to adopt a Franklin stream today!

Click [HERE](#) to go to their website, or contact them at:

adopt-a-stream@cumberlandrivercompact.org and 615-837-1151

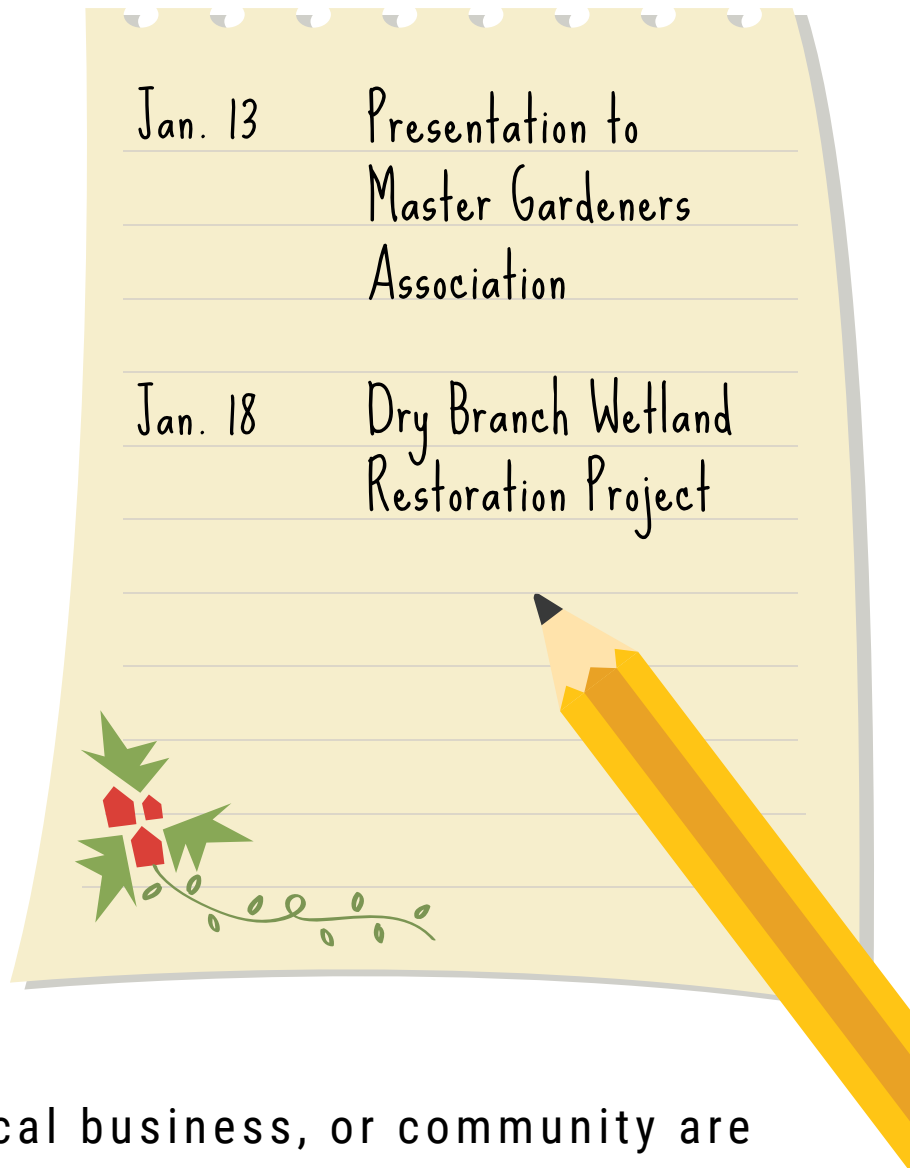


ADOPT-A-STREAM



As the year comes to a close, Stormwater Management would like to thank all volunteers and groups that have helped to improve the quality of our water resources. This year we were able to organize or participate in **22 public education and outreach events** and recruit over **350 volunteers**. How amazing! Thank you!

We have some new events at the start of the new year, kicking off with a presentation to the Master Gardeners Association's annual meeting and followed by another restoration event at Dry Branch Wetland. Stay tuned for updates!



If you, your family, local business, or community are interested in volunteering or organizing an event for your watershed please contact Stormwater Management

(615)791-3218

or email Brittani Perez

brittani.perez@franklintn.gov



thank you!

That's all for our winter issue. Stay updated for our spring newsletter in **March!**